

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for paying an invoice, comprising:
receiving a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;
identifying a user associated with the code;
presenting the expense to the user;
receiving an instruction to pay the payable amount; and
determining if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved
amount associated with the code.
2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
issuing a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that
the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.
3. A method according to Claim 2, further comprising:
decrementing the approved amount associated with the code based on
the payable amount.
4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the instruction is received
from the user.
5. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
associating an associated approved amount with each of a plurality of
codes.
6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the code represents a
vendor.
7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the code represents a
project.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the code represents a purchase order.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identifying step
5 comprises:

analyzing a data structure comprising one or more users associated with each of a plurality of codes.

10. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
10 associating one or more users with each of a plurality of expense codes.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the instruction is received from the user, wherein the identifying step comprises identifying a second
15 user associated with the code, and further comprising:

receiving a second instruction to pay the payable amount from the second user.

12. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
20 issuing a command to pay the payable amount if the first instruction and the second instruction have been received and if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

13. A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:
25 presenting the expense to the second user.

14. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the presenting step comprises:

30 sending an electronic mail message to the user, the electronic mail message including a selectable link;

receiving an indication that the link has been selected; and

presenting information representing the expense to the user.

15. A method for paying an invoice, comprising:

receiving a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

determining if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code; and

presenting the expense to a user associated with the code if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the expense is not presented to the user if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

17. A method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

transmitting an indication to the user if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount, the indication indicating that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

18. A method for paying an invoice, comprising:

receiving a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

determining if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code; and

transmitting an indication to a user associated with the code if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount, the indication indicating that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

19. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:

presenting the expense to the user.

20. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising:
receiving an instruction to pay the payable amount.

5 21. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the determining step
comprises:
analyzing a data structure comprising one or more users associated
with each of a plurality of codes.

10 22. A method according to Claim 21, further comprising:
associating one or more users with each of a plurality of expense
codes.

15 23. A method for paying an invoice, comprising:
receiving a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;
identifying a user associated with the code;
identifying an approved amount associated with the code; and
presenting the expense, the payable amount, and the approved
amount to the user.

20 24. A method according to Claim 23, further comprising:
receiving an instruction to pay the payable amount.

25 25. A method according to Claim 24, further comprising:
issuing a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that
the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

30 26. A method according to Claim 25., further comprising:
decrementing the approved amount associated with the code based on
the payable amount.

27. A method according to Claim 23, wherein the determining step comprises:

analyzing a data structure comprising one or more users associated with each of a plurality of codes.

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28. A method according to Claim 27, further comprising:
associating one or more users with each of a plurality of expense codes.

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29. A method for paying an invoice, comprising:
receiving a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;
identifying a user associated with the code;
transmitting the expense to a client device after the user accesses the client device;

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receiving an instruction to pay the payable amount;
determining if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code;

issuing a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount; and
decrementing the approved amount based on the payable amount.

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30. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to pay an invoice, the process steps comprising:

a step to receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

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a step to identify a user associated with the code;
a step to present the expense to the user;
a step to receive an instruction to pay the payable amount; and
a step to determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code.

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31. A medium according to Claim 30, the process steps further comprising:

a step to issue a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

32. A medium according to Claim 31, the process steps further comprising:

a step to decrement the approved amount associated with the code based on the payable amount.

33. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the instruction is received from the user.

34. A medium according to Claim 30, the process steps further comprising:

a step to associate an associated approved amount with each of a plurality of codes.

35. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the code represents a vendor.

36. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the code represents a project.

37. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the code represents a purchase order.

38. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the identifying step comprises:

a step to analyze a data structure comprising one or more users associated with each of a plurality of codes.

39. A medium according to Claim 38, the process steps further comprising:

a step to associate one or more users with each of a plurality of expense codes.

40. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the instruction is received from the user, wherein the identifying step comprises a step to identify a second user associated with the code, and the process steps further comprising:

a step to receive a second instruction to pay the payable amount from the second user.

41. A medium according to Claim 40, the process steps further comprising:

a step to issue a command to pay the payable amount if the first instruction and the second instruction have been received and if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

42. A medium according to Claim 41, the process steps further comprising:

a step to present the expense to the second user.

43. A medium according to Claim 30, wherein the presenting step comprises:

a step to send an electronic mail message to the user, the electronic mail message including a selectable link;

a step to receive an indication that the link has been selected; and

a step to present information representing the expense to the user.

44. A medium storing processor-executable steps to pay an invoice, the process steps comprising:

5 a step to receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

a step to determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code; and

10 a step to present the expense to a user associated with the code if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

45. A medium according to Claim 44, wherein the expense is not presented to the user if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

46. A medium according to Claim 44, the process steps further comprising:

20 a step to transmit an indication to the user if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount, the indication indicating that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

47. A medium storing processor-executable steps to pay an invoice, the process steps comprising:

25 a step to receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

a step to determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code; and

30 a step to transmit an indication to a user associated with the code if it is determined that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the

approved amount, the indication indicating that the payable amount is not less than or equal to the approved amount.

48. A medium according to Claim 47, the process steps further comprising:
a step to present the expense to the user.

49. A medium according to Claim 47, the process steps further comprising:
a step to receive an instruction to pay the payable amount.

50. A medium according to Claim 47, wherein the determining step comprises:
a step to analyze a data structure comprising one or more users associated with each of a plurality of codes.

51. A medium according to Claim 50, the process steps further comprising:
a step to associate one or more users with each of a plurality of expense codes.

52. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to pay an invoice, the process steps comprising:
a step to receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;
a step to identify a user associated with the code;
a step to identify an approved amount associated with the code; and
a step to present the expense, the payable amount, and the approved amount to the user.

53. A medium according to Claim 52, the process steps further comprising:

a step to receive an instruction to pay the payable amount.

5 54. A medium according to Claim 53, the process steps further comprising:

a step to issue a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

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55. A medium according to Claim 54, the process steps further comprising:

a step to decrement the approved amount associated with the code based on the payable amount.

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56. A medium according to Claim 52, wherein the determining step comprises:

a step to analyze a data structure comprising one or more users associated with each of a plurality of codes.

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57. A medium according to Claim 56, the process steps further comprising:

a step to associate one or more users with each of a plurality of expense codes.

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58. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to pay an invoice, the process steps comprising:

a step to receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

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a step to identify a user associated with the code;

a step to transmit the expense to a client device after the user accesses the client device;

a step to receive an instruction to pay the payable amount;

a step to determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an

5 approved amount associated with the code;

a step to issue a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount; and

10 a step to decrement the approved amount based on the payable amount.

59. An apparatus for paying an invoice, comprising:

a storage device storing processor-executable process steps and a data structure associating each of a plurality of codes with a user and an
15 approved amount; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,
wherein the processor-executable process steps are adapted to be executed by said processor to:

20 receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

identify a user associated with the code;

present the expense to the user;

receive an instruction to pay the payable amount; and

25 determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code.

60. An apparatus for paying an invoice, comprising:

a storage device storing processor-executable process steps and a data structure associating each of a plurality of codes with a user and an
30 approved amount; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,

wherein the processor-executable process steps are adapted to be executed by said processor to:

receive a code and a payable amount associated with an expense;

identify a user associated with the code;

transmit the expense to a client device after the user accesses the client device;

receive an instruction to pay the payable amount;

determine if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code;

issue a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount; and

decrement the approved amount based on the payable amount.

61. A system for paying an invoice, comprising:

a payment system storing a data structure associating each of a plurality of codes with a user and an approved amount; and a client device,

wherein the payment system receives a code and a payable amount associated with an expense, identifies a user associated with the code, transmits the expense to the client device after the user accesses the client device, receives an instruction to pay the payable amount, and determines if the payable amount is less than or equal to an approved amount associated with the code, and

wherein the client device receives a request from the user to access the client device, provides the user with access to the client device, presents the expense to the user, receives an indication from the user to pay the payable amount, and transmits the instruction to pay the payable amount to the payment system.

62. A system according to Claim 61, wherein the payment system issues a command to pay the payable amount if it is determined that the payable amount is less than or equal to the approved amount.

- 5 63. A system according to Claim 62, wherein, after issuing the command, the payment system decrements the approved amount associated with the code based on the payable amount.

- 10 64. A system according to Claim 61, wherein the payment system sends an electronic mail message including a selectable link to the user, the client device receives the message, the client device presents the message to the user, the client device receives an indication that the link has been selected, and the client device transmits a second indication to the payment system that the link has been selected.